

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor, *EUGENICS REVIEW*.

Sir,

I beg to communicate in corrected form two notes contributed in the April issue by Dr. M. A. Van Herwerden, and misread by us.

C.B.S.H.

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BLOOD TYPES.

Two young physicians in the Dutch colonies (Deli on the coast of the Isle of Sumatra) have continued the interesting studies of von Dungeren and Hirschfeld, Verzar, and other investigators on the signification of the agglutinating power of blood for anthropological researches. These doctors, Dr. Bais and Dr. Verhoeff, had the opportunity to determine the biochemical blood index of 546 persons from Sumatra (natives of the island), 1346 from the Isle of Java, and 592 Chinese from South China. Those from Java and China were workers in the Deli tobacco plantations. In their interesting record of the known facts (*Nederl. Tydschrift voor Geneeskunde*, 1924, II., p. 1212) Drs. Bais and Verhoeff reprint a graph of Hirschfeld with a supplement based on their own and other researches. This graph gives a survey of the remarkable facts, that the biochemical index of the agglutinating power of the blood—has a maximum in Western Europe greater than unity, diminished in the South-Eastern direction till the minimum, less than unity, is reached in British India. Farther Eastwards in the direction of China there follows a rise again as indicated by the investigations of the authors. A small number (75) persons of British India investigated in the Dutch Colonies, gave again the same low index as found by Hirschfeld in the inhabitants of the former country.

A place apart is taken in this graph by the American Indians, who have a very high biochemical blood-index, but a low value as to the percentage belonging to group II. and III. of the four blood groups in which mankind has been divided. The biochemical index seems to be an inherited trait which follows the Mendelian law, as has been confirmed by the authors. Researches on a larger scale will have a great value for anthropology.

M. A. VAN HERWERDEN.

CONGENITAL OPHTHALMOPLÉGIA.

Dr. P. J. Waardenburg, a Dutch oculist who has for years been studying the heredity of eye defects, has recently published a case of congenital ophthalmoplegia (a weakness of the eye muscles) in two different families. Five members of one generation suffered from the disease, which was unknown in the former generations of the same family. The author traced consanguinity between them, the parents having had the same grandparents. Here is a case of so-called familial disease, which certainly can be considered as a Mendelian recessive. During several generations the heterozygote condition Aa' (a' denoting the abnormality) has prevented the birth of abnormal children, till by intermarriage ophthalmoplegical children $a'a'$ were born. There are also other known cases of dominant ophthalmoplegia, but the case of Waardenburg is the first recessive one to be described.

M. A. VAN HERWERDEN'

OFFICE NEWS

Since early autumn, the staff has been enjoying the added comfort of larger premises in the Royal Anthropological Institute. The Hon. Librarian completed very rapidly the arduous task of re-arranging books on the shelves allotted. Up to the time of writing, very few Fellows and Members have availed themselves of the courtesy of the Royal Anthropological Institute in the matter of borrowing books and using the Reading Room, and it is much to be hoped that during the Spring this will become a rendezvous, and the examination of new books and of current periodicals a habit with many of our London Fellows.

NEW LIBRARY CATALOGUE.

Attention should be called to the copies which are sent out with this issue. Lack of funds and lack of time have held up this much-desired publication till this moment. Fellows should be made aware to what extent the Society's finances have been saved by the production through voluntary work entirely, of this little volume. Miss Corry had the assistance of Mrs. Boyd, and she and the office staff have given much help in their spare moments. For all of which most hearty thanks are here recorded.